

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update July 10 to July 19, 2008

After delaying the start of the shift by two days to let some bad weather pass through, it turned out to be a pretty exciting shift, with a higher capture rate, a couple different species, and our first young birds of the year.

Among the new species for the season was a White-throated Sparrow at the WEIR station, and two young Clay-colored Sparrows, caught side-by-side in a single net at the PARK station. Also, a new species for the year, and a personal favourite of mine, a Red-eyed Vireo. I can't say for sure why the Red-eyed Vireo particularly grabs me, but I would guess that it has something to do with its willingness to sing its beautiful song all day long, and the subtle beauty of its plumage that's especially evident in the hand. Whatever the reason, it was nice to see (and hear) this bird out in the Natural Area.



On the more colourful end of the spectrum, we also caught a Baltimore Oriole, and an American Goldfinch this shift. We've caught both of these species occasionally throughout the year, but it's always a treat to see the flash of colour in the nets.

And, if you read the previous report, you may be interested to know that the Tennessee Warblers did stick around, and a couple others came to join them. I'm not sure what they're doing moving into, and starting to sing in, this area so late in the breeding season, but I'll enjoy it nonetheless. —JMDR

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	25	21	0	0	0	46
Hermit Thrush	0	5	0	0	0	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	2	0	0	0	3
Yellow Warbler	1	2	0	0	0	3
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Swainson's Thrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	0	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-tailed Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	35	30	0	0	0	65

¹ Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.

² Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).

³ Banded at a location other than the BBO.

⁴ Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).

Net Hours: 180

Capture Rate: 36.1 /100 NH